

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AREA UNDER CROP, 1948/49

When the annual farm statistics were being collected last autumn, farmers were asked to indicate the areas that they intended to sow with wheat, barley and oats for all purposes (for grain, hay or feeding off) for this coming season.

During the last few weeks, particulars of their actual sowings have been obtained from a number of farmers in all districts of the State and whose areas under crop represent over 40% of the total area under crop. These actual sowings were compared with the areas intended for sowing by the same farmers and the comparative figures obtained were as follows:- Wheat - Intended 930,885, Actually sown 917,192, Barley - Intended 280,059, Actually Sown 280,854, and Oats - Intended 306,967, Actually Sown 296,524 acres.

This sample collection indicates that the areas actually sown varied only slightly from that which had been intended and the estimated totals given below are based on this experience. The slight decreases for Wheat and Oats were in the Northern, Western and Murray Mallee Divisions.

The following statement gives the comparison of the total areas for certain specified seasons.

<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Wheat</u> Acres	<u>Barley</u> Acres	<u>Oats</u> Acres	<u>Total</u> Acres
1930-31	4,507,213 a	267,369	519,300	5,293,882 a
1939-40	2,948,110	558,559	834,793 b	4,341,462
1943-44	1,675,778 c	304,382 c	558,065	2,538,225 c
1944-45	1,850,682	402,700	664,436	2,917,818
1945-46	2,407,253	479,384	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47	2,662,150	520,027	485,736 d	3,667,913
1947-48	2,480,840	579,795	560,294	3,620,929
1948/49				
Intended	2,230,000	700,000 e	680,000	3,610,000
Estimated Sown	2,200,000	700,000 e	660,000	3,550,000

The areas sown in 1947-48 were harvested as follows:-

Grain	2,368,171	561,638	309,453	3,239,262
Hay	107,512	2,640	150,018	260,170
Fed Off	5,157	15,517	100,823	121,497

Notes

- a. Maximum area for wheat and for the total.
- b. Maximum area for oats
- c. Lowest areas for wheat and barley in recent years and for the total.
- d. Lowest area for oats in recent years.
- e. Maximum area for barley.